

Regular Session, 2010

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 40

BY SENATOR B. GAUTREAUX

CONGRESS. Memorializes Congress to support continued investment and progress in alleviating the problem of hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the Congress of the United States to support continued investment and progress in alleviating the problem of hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico.

WHEREAS, the spread of a large annual hypoxia zone in the Gulf of Mexico poses a significant threat to the health of Louisiana's productive coastal fishery and the communities and parishes who depend on it; and

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana has participated in the national effort to reduce the spread of Gulf hypoxia since the formation of the federal-state Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force in 1998; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature has memorialized the Congress and the President of the United States to fulfill their commitment to address this problem through the cooperative framework of the *Action Plan for Reducing Hypoxia in the Northern Gulf of Mexico*, in House Concurrent Resolution 80 of the 2007 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana and House Concurrent Resolution 148 of the 2009 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the launching of the *Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative* by the United States Department of Agriculture in 2009, marks the first targeted federal funding for implementation activities of the *Action Plan* since it was signed in 2001;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Louisiana has joined the other states in the Mississippi River Basin who
3 are participating in this initiative to engage partners and stakeholders in nominating
4 watersheds to receive federal funding under this program; and

5 WHEREAS, the President's Budget for Fiscal Year 2011, also contains funding
6 dedicated to *Action Plan* implementation activities under the budget of the United States
7 Environmental Protection Agency; and

8 WHEREAS, our neighboring state of Mississippi has accepted the role of co-chair
9 of the Mississippi River/Watershed Nutrient Task Force, continuing their active
10 collaboration with Louisiana and federal and basin partners to address problems affecting
11 each state's coast and the Gulf of Mexico; and

12 WHEREAS, these steps represent a significant acceleration of progress, while all
13 parties involved recognize that much more remains to be done to reverse the spread of Gulf
14 hypoxia, which requires Congressional participation and support.

15 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
16 memorialize the Congress of the United States to support continued investment and progress
17 in implementing the *Action Plan for Reducing Hypoxia in the North Gulf of Mexico* by
18 expanding cooperative activities throughout the Mississippi River Basin.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted
20 to the secretary of the United States Senate, the clerk of the United States House of
21 Representatives, each member of the Louisiana delegation to the Congress of the United
22 States, and the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the
23 Congress of the United States.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Curry Johnson.

DIGEST

B. Gautreaux

SCR No.

Memorializes Congress to support continued investment and progress in alleviating the
problem of hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico.